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FM THE WHITE HOUSE TOHAK 61

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

ZEM

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD

WH30054

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TOHAK 61

JANUARY 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR MRGM KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

ARMY, NSA and JCS reviews
completed.

VIET CONG TRAINING FOR DEALING WITH ICC:

THE VIET CONG APPARENTLY HAVE BEGUN TRAINING CADRE TO DEAL
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY COMMIS-
SION AFTER A CEASE-FIRE HAS BEEN SIGNED.

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WAYS TO COVER UP THE PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND
ADVISE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS ON HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
ALLIED DAMAGES. THE CADRE WERE TOLD TO INFORM ICC MEMBERS
THAT NO NVA TROOPS WERE PRESENT, WHENEVER THIS COULD APPEAR
PLAUSIBLE. WHERE THIS RUSE COULD NOT BE USED, CADRE SHOULD
SAY THERE WERE SOME NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE AREA WHO HAD
CHOSEN TO REMAIN AS CIVILIANS IN THE SOUTH.

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THE INSTRUCTORS MADE IT CLEAR THAT MANY NORTH
VIETNAMESE TROOPS WOULD DEFINITELY BE STAYING. THE INSTRU-
CTORS ALSO INFORMED THE CADRES THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE ICC
SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY AND THAT NO FAVORITISM WAS TO BE
SHOWN TO COMMUNIST BLOC MEMBERS.

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THIS IS 1 No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/08/24 : LOC-HAK-547-4-8-2
THEIR CADRE SPECIFICALLY TO DEAL WITH MEMBERS OF AN INTERNATIONAL
SUPERVISORY COMMISSION.

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NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKERS LEAVE HAIPHONG: TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE
TANKERS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN IN THE HAIPHONG AREA SINCE NOVEMBER
AND ARE NOW BELIEVED TO BE IN A SOUTH CHINA PORT. LIGHTLY LOADED,
BOTH SHIPS COULD HAVE LEFT HAIPHONG AT HIGH TIDE WITHOUT USING
THE NORMAL SHIPPING CHANNEL.

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CHINESE RETURN TO LOW-KEY TREATMENT OF WAR:

PEKING HAS RESUMED ITS LOW-KEY, RESTRAINED TREATMENT OF THE VIETNAM WAR FOLLOWING MADAME BINH'S VISIT, THE CUTBACK IN U.S. BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM, AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE PARIS TALKS. THE CHINESE PRESS COVERED ROUTINELY LE DUC THO'S STOPOVER IN PEKING EN ROUTE TO PARIS AND REPORTED ONLY A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS ON HIS ARRIVAL IN THE FRENCH CAPITAL. THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) ACCOUNT OF HIS ARRIVAL WAS EXTREMELY BLAND; PEKING ENTIRELY IGNORED LE'S HARSH REMARKS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S BARGAINING POSITION AND HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WAS IN PARIS FOR "ONE MORE EFFORT." NCNA CONTINUES TO CARRY A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF STORIES IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY -- ESPECIALLY THE BOMBING -- ORIGINATED BY CHINESE CORRESPONDENTS. MOST OF THESE, HOWEVER, ARE RELATIVELY STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND FREE FROM POLEMICS.

SOVIET TRANSPORT FLIGHTS TO HANOI RESUMED: A PRESS DISPATCH FROM VIENTIANE STATES THAT THE SOVIET TRANSPORT FLIGHTS TO HANOI HAVE BEEN RESUMED FOLLOWING THE RECENT U.S. BOMBING RAIDS ABOVE THE 20TH PARALLEL. TWO SOVIET AN-12 TRANSPORTS HAVE STOPPED AT VIENTIANE SO FAR THIS WEEK. THE CARGO IS LISTED AS MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO HANOI: CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY OF CALIFORNIA IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A TRIP TO HANOI FOR FOUR U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGE AMERICAN BOMBING HAS DONE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL. HE SAID THE FOUR -- DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES STARK OF CALIFORNIA AND MONTGOMERY OF MISSISSIPPI AND REPUBLICANS YOUNG OF FLORIDA AND MCCLOSKEY HIMSELF -- WANT TO MAKE THE TRIP BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2 AND 10. MCCLOSKEY AND STARK HAVE FAVORED IMMEDIATE U.S. WITHDRAWAL WHILE YOUNG AND MONTGOMERY HAVE SUPPORTED THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE ISSUE. THE TRIP WILL NOT BE OFFICIAL.

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THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: ALEXANDER BOROWIEC REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT THERE ARE STRONG HINTS OF A CONTINUING DEADLOCK IN THE THIRD DAY OF YOUR TALKS WITH LE DUC THO. FRENCH COMMUNIST INFORMANTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS "TEMPERATURE ICE, PROGRESS NIL." THE TONE OF INFORMATION EMANATING FROM HANOI SEEMS TO CONFIRM THE SPIRIT OF GLOOM.

ADMIRAL MOORER TOLD THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE YESTERDAY HE WAS NOT CONSULTED BEFORE THE HEAVY BOMBING RAIDS LAST MONTH. A CONTINGENCY PLAN WAS DRAWN UP FOR MASSIVE B-52 STRIKES AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HEARTLAND AND WAS PUT INTO EFFECT ON PRESIDENTIAL ORDER WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS.

SOUTH KOREA HAS TOLD PRESIDENT NIXON IT WILL DELAY THE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE OF ITS TWO DIVISIONS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM TO BOLSTER THE U.S. NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH HANOI, ACCORDING TO HIGH KOREAN SOURCES.

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ABLE TO SOUTH VIETNAM IS GETTING VERY LOW, CREATING A SENSE OF CRISIS IN THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH AID MONEY CONTINUES TO FLOW IN, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION SEEMS DELIBERATELY TO BE KEEPING THE THIEU REGIME ON A SHORTENING STRING. TOP VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE CHANCES THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION COMING TO WASHINGTON WILL OBTAIN THE AID THEY WILL REQUEST; SOME REGARD THE TRIP AS A JUNKET.

ACCORDING TO TAMMY ARBUCKLE, U.S. AIRSTRIKES BELOW THE 20TH PARALLEL HAVE FAILED TO STOP THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMMUNITION SUPPLY DOWN THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL IN SOUTH LAOS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POURED AN ESTIMATED 15,000 ARTILLERY ROUNDS OF MIXED CALIBER INTO SARAVANE OVER THE WEEKEND.

J STAR EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE CHILL IN PARIS OFFERS LITTLE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM. HOWEVER, THE NEGATIVE HISTORIONICS CAN BE DECEPTIVE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PARIS TALKS MAY FAIL UTTERLY.

ACCORDING TO SMITH HEMPSTONE, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED THAT THE MILITARY DAMAGE INFLICTED ON NORTH VIETNAM WAS WORTH THE COST IN AMERICAN LIVES, TREASURE, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, OR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION. THE FAILURE TO JUSTIFY THE BOMBING, RATHER THAN THE BOMBING ITSELF, APPEARS TO BE WHAT RILED THE MAJORITY OF THINKING AMERICANS MOST. IF HIS SECOND TERM IS NOT TO BE A REAL BUMMER, THE PRESIDENT OUGHT TO GET DOWN OFF HIS HIGH HORSE AND TAKE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO HIS CONFIDENCE.